Saturday, October 3, 2009 ** 11 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 297 P18



NOT YET SUPERTYPHOON "Pepeng" (international code name: Parma) roars toward northern Luzon packing maximum winds of 195 kilometers per hour. Pepeng is expected to make landfall in Aurora and Isabela provinces today. Pagasa says it slowed down at sea yesterday and warns Metro Manila residents that Pepeng may be passing close to the metropolis.

Pagasa tip: Seek refuge in strongest building

By Nikko Dizon

LOOK FOR THE STRONGEST building where you can take refuge and stay put while the storm passes.

This advice from Nathaniel Cruz, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) deputy director for operations on what to do when "Pepeng" hits the country.

A United Nations' humanitarian agency said yesterday some 1.8 million people could be exposed to the worst winds from the supertyphoon.

"These gusts are strong enough to destroy houses, rip the roofs off houses," Cruz said yesterday in a radio interview. "The best thing we can do for the lives of our countrymen is to look for the strongest building where our countrymen can take refuge while the storm is passing."

Cruz said Pepeng would likely not bring the heavy rains of Ondoy that hit the country last weekend, and the worst of it was forecast to strike over 200 km north of Manila.

PAGASA/A4

RP in a state of calamity

Declaration designed for worst-case scenario

By TJ Burgonio, Alcuin Papa and Inquirer Luzon Bureaus

ANTICIPATING THE IMPACT OF WHAT MIGHT BE Supertyphoon "Pepeng," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared the entire country in a state of calamity to ensure that all government resources would be ready for a worst-case scenario.

The declaration of a state of calamity clears local government officials to tap 5 percent of their funds for calamity purposes, and trade officials to set price ceilings on commodities, officials said.

Pepeng (international code name: "Parma") slowed down at sea yesterday afternoon, prompting the Pagasa weather bureau to warn residents of Metro Manila and surrounding areas to prepare for the possibility of the typhoon changing direction and passing close to the metropolis.

At a press conference, Pagasa director Dr. Prisco Nilo expressed concern over Pepeng's slowdown, which, he said, was caused by a high-pressure area in Hong Kong that was blocking its northward progress.

This could cause the typhoon to linger longer in the Philippines and dump more than the usual rainfall, Nilo said.

Ms Arroyo decided to expand the coverage of the state of calamity to the rest of the country after presiding over a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) at the municipal hall in Cainta, Rizal.

GMA DECLARES/A4

Gov't orders evacuation of people in harm's way

By the Inquirer Staff

FEARING A SECOND DISASTER after the worst flooding in four decades swamped the homes of more than 2 million people last weekend, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered the evacuation of coastal towns and other areas in the direct path of a looming typhoon, "Pepeng."

Disaster officials said evacuations have begun in low-lying and mountainous villages in several provinces north and east of Manila, and officials were poised to relocate other communities in Pepeng's path, once that became clearer yesterday.

Ms Arroyo did not specify how many people would be evacuated or what would be done to those who resist being moved.

GOV'T ORDERS/A4



AFTER THE STORM A boy and a woman weep over the coffin of their loved one who died in the floods brought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" last week. Sixteen of the 43 residents of Barangay Bagong Silangan in Quezon City who drowned in the floods were buried on Thursday.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Rescuers race to save victims in the rubble

PADANG, INDONESIA—IN THE GRIM landscape, the house where Linda Wati had planned to celebrate her wedding was now a tottering shell, demolished by a 7.6 magnitude quake that devastated western Indonesia.

She had no intention of putting off her wedding.

"I consider this a challenge from God," said the 25-year-old farmer's daughter, her head covered by a Mus-

RESCUERS/A8



GMA offers 'bahay kubo' for homeless

By TJ Burgonio

YOU CAN HUFF AND PUFF BUT nothing will blow down President Macapagal-Arroyo's "bahay kubo" idea for people left homeless by Storm "Ondoy."

The President yesterday made a strong pitch for the use of the ready-

GMA OFFERS/A4

US GIs wonder Filipinos still smiling

By Beverly T. Natividad

A TEAM OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS GOT a first-hand look at the devastation wrought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy"—and ended up wondering how Filipinos could still smile and give them "high-fives" amid a terrible calamity. (See related story on Page A7.)

At least 27 members of the 3rd US Marine Expeditionary Force, composed of doctors, nurses, medical aides and a chaplain, the other day conducted a medical and dental mission at Nangka Elementary School, which sheltered thousands displaced by the massive floods in Marikina City.

"We've seen things here [in terms of the destruction] that we haven't seen before. This is really the least we can do. We wish we could stay longer," said Lt. Commander Todd Endicott, the mission's leader.

Endicott also shared one interesting

AMID/A7

Lakeside towns warned: Laguna Lake rising

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IF "PEPENG" DUMPS ONLY HALF OF the rains that Tropical Storm "Ondoy" brought to Metro Manila on Sept. 26, the water level of Laguna Lake may break its all-time record of 14.62 meters, possibly sinking more coastal barangays in Metro Manila and Rizal.

This projection was made yesterday in a press briefing by Edgar Manda, chair of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), in recommending the preemptive evacuation of some 100,000 people, specifically those living on the shorelines of Taguig, Cainta, Pasig, Taytay and Muntinlupa.

He described the LLDA as a "toothless tiger," and said he had sought the help of the Office of Civil Defense, the Metro Manila Development Authority and the military to evacuate the imperiled residents.

Manda said some portions of Laguna flanking the lake, which serves as the catch basin of floodwaters coming from upper areas like Marikina and Rizal, might likewise be affected. He identified these areas as Sta. Rosa, Calamba, San

LAKESIDE/A4

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST



Geologist blames floods on squatters, subdivisions

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE MARIKINA RIVER AND other waterways that swelled when Tropical Storm "Ondoy" battered Metro Manila on Saturday are clogged not only by illegal settlers but also by subdivisions, aggravating the heavy flooding that drowned many communities, a University of the Philippines geologist said.

[illegible]

Disappointing

[illegible]

Stable medicine prices assured

By Abigail L. Ho

[illegible]

Most-needed list

[illegible]

RP needs P50 B for relief, rehab–Angara

'Expectedly slow'

Donations rush in, out of Inquirer for victims

Invaluable contributions

Overwhelming support

GMA declares RP in a state of calamity

Islands isolated in Camarines Norte

Double time

Small possibility

Storm signals

Not yet supertyphoon

Price control

GMA orders water deliveries

Gov't orders evacuation of people in harm's way

Preventive evacuation

'Don't go home'

Local authorities

Stockpiling relief goods

House-to-house distribution

Communications

Meralco crews ready

Heavy equipment

24-hour monitoring

Reluctant to leave



OUT OF BATTLE An American soldier plays with the children at Nangka Elementary School turned evacuation center in Marikina City on Thursday. The US mission is one in a series to be conducted in the next few days in Metro Manila.

Amid crisis, US soldiers wonder how Filipinos can still manage to smile

From page A1

observation: "We all wonder how (Filipinos) keep smiling through all this."

"Americans will probably wouldn't handle this as well. Here, people are smiling, saying 'Hi' to us, giving us high-fives. This is a pretty miserable situation, how people keep smiling, I don't know. It's probably a testament to the culture," Endlsey said.

AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. said the US mission was the first in a series that the group would conduct in the next few days in Eastern Metro Manila, one of the areas hit hardest by Ondoy.

Wading through mud

Wading through the mud, the GIs and their counterparts from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) also distributed medicines and clothes.

Hunched in small chairs meant for schoolchildren, US troopers made do with the few tables and chairs available.

They treated mostly the wounded—those who fled the floods barefoot amid the debris—as well as evacuees suffering from colds and cough.

American troopers who took part in the mission were supposed to undergo training north of the country, Endlsey said. "But we were told that there's flooding, destruction and displaced people here so we sprung into action."

To help clean up

Two more US military units—31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, both stationed in Okinawa, Japan—are expected to ship heavy equipment to help in the cleanup of the disaster areas in the next few days.

These would include 6 bulldozers, five cargo trucks, five heavy transport vehicles and two heavy lift helicopters.

Rescuers race to save victims in the rubble

From page A1

her headscarf. "I'm not angry with God. I think it's a test of our will."

The United Nations said as many as 1,100 people had been killed. With more than 2,000 people injured and "thousands" missing, officials said the death toll was likely to rise.

The damage from the undersea quake was most extensive in Padang, a coastal town of 900,000 people and the capital of West Sumatra province. It sits atop one of the world's most active seismic fault lines along the "Ring of Fire."

Alive after 40 hours

On Friday, rescuers pulled a teenager alive from her collapsed college about 40 hours after the earthquake struck in Sumatra, a heavily populated island in this impoverished nation where natural disasters are common.

Elsewhere, rescuers heard cries for help from people trapped under a collapsed hotel.

"We heard some voices of people under the rubble, but as you can see the damage is making it very difficult to extricate them," said Gagah Prakoso, spokesperson of a rescue team.

Few victims were being found alive two days after the tremor.

Lack of equipment

But rescuers found a reason to cheer. Ratna Kurniawati Virgo, 19, an English major sophomore, was found alive under the rubble of her college, the Foreign Language School of Prayoga.

Amid excited shouts, rescuers pulled Virgo hands first from a hole drilled in the debris.

"She is fine, conscious and does not have any life-threatening injuries," said a nurse at a hospital.

Officials said a lack of heavy digging equipment made it nearly impossible to pry apart giant slabs of concrete from toppled buildings.

Medical teams, search dogs, backhoes and emergency supplies were flown into Sumatra after Indonesia issued an appeal for international help.

Many children dead

Few death appeared to be possible.

A giant excavator tore through piles of twisted iron and rubble, the wreckage of the three-story college. Dozens of students were attending after-school lessons there when the quake struck with a force felt in neighboring Singapore and Malaysia.

"We have pulled out 58 children since the quake. Some of them, on the first day, were still alive, but the last few have all been dead," said rescue team leader Narlis, who, like many Indonesians, uses just one name.

"There are still a lot of corpses in there. You can smell it. They are toward the back where we can't reach. The problem is a lot of buildings around here weren't very well built."

Sobbing mother

"Please be patient," Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono told the crowd of people whose relatives are missing, assuring them that the government was doing everything in its power to save lives.

Aswati, who uses only one name, burst into tears when asked who he was waiting for under the blazing sun outside Padang's biggest hospital.

"Don't ask me about my daughter ... She is still missing," Aswati said, between sobs.

The crushed remains of the dead were beginning to decompose in the tropical heat and mass funeral arrangements were being made by families at local mosques.

Mira's shoes

Among the dead was Mira Elliani, a sophomore a week shy of her 18th birthday. She was taking an end-of-term English exam along with dozens of classmates at the Indonesia-America Institute when it collapsed.

The school building's construction was typical of the region. Most buildings are not made to withstand earthquakes, and even the tough ones were badly damaged in an earthquake in 2007.

Mira's father, Zul Effendi, rushed to the school, but it was already a heap of concrete when he got there. Still, he pulled at the slabs and managed to save two other children and an adult.

His wife, Marlina, said rescuers found their daughter's body much later, but her shoes were here. Now, Marlina was looking for her daughter's shoes—to preserve them as the last link with Mira.

International help

With communications and power supplies still down in many areas, Red was being rationed to focus on locating the injured and still missing.

Rescue sent two planeloads of supplies, along with doctors and nurses. Also donating millions of dollars in aid and financial assistance were governments and charities of Australia, China, Germany, Japan, the European Union, Malaysia, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States.

President Barack Obama, who spent part of his childhood in Indonesia, pledged to support earthquake recovery efforts there, as well as provide assistance to the South Pacific countries of Samoa and American Samoa, which were hit by a deadly tsunami Tuesday.

The United States pledged $3 million in immediate assistance to Indonesia.

Indonesia sits on a major geological fault zone and experiences dozens of quakes every year. Wednesday's quake originated on the same fault line that spawned the 2004 Asian tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen nations.

The quake was the deadliest since May 2006, when more than 5,000 people died in the city of Yogyakarta. *Reports from AFP, AP, Reuters*



AN INDONESIAN policeman stands in front of the ruins of Ambacang hotel as rescuers search the rubble for survivors in Padang on Friday. Exhausted rescue workers clawed through mountains of rubble with their bare hands in a race to find survivors of a major earthquake.



OUT OF THE RUBBLE An Indonesian woman is found alive and extracted out of the rubble of a collapsed building in Padang on Friday.

Meralco tips: Make sure it's dry

Turn off circuit breaker

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Asean sets up disaster fund for members

P566-M int'l aid

Asean cooperation fund

UN's flash appeal

Europe's aid totals P234M

Other donors



A GIRL holds her father's arm as they join a long line of people waiting for the distribution of relief goods in Cainta, Rizal, on Friday.

Boracay fundraiser

GMA offers 'bahay kubo' for homeless

Relocation sites

Bamboo vs hollow blocks

Available

Another typhoon sighted over Pacific

Pagasa tip: Seek refuge in strongest building

Twisted metal

Pick up roofs, uproot trees

Pray and hope for the best



Tsunami kills Pinoy in Samoa

US Marines move in for medical mission

By Beverly T. Natividad

'As long as they want us'

No swine flu

Sharp materials

IBM blames 'human error' for GSIS glitch

By Ronnel W. Domingo

Inadvertent human error

Flood crisis



Lakeside towns warned: Laguna Lake rising

From page A1

[illegible]

All-time record

[illegible]

Climate change

[illegible]

Lupang Arenda

[illegible]

PAGASA FAST FACTS

[illegible]

[illegible]

Still flooded

[illegible]

THINK TANK ANALYSIS

Remittances to shore up crisis spending





Pinoy picked one of 10 CNN heroes

No cable TV

Typhoon threat triggers buying



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Cutting classes

EDITORIAL



The gift of disasters

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

Tortured claims

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

Does the global slowdown worsen poverty?

SOCIAL CLIMATE



Mahar Mangahas

Political values

COMMENTARY

Butch Hernandez

The training and selection of judges

BUSINESS MATTERS



Ricardo J. Romulo

Where I belong

YOUNG BLOOD

Katrina Tan

IN THE NEWS



Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro

LETTERS

Response understandable

GSIS now acting on former educator's claim

SSS wrote claimant to submit more documents



Across the NATION

Inmates, cash-strapped LGUs donate

TWO PROVINCES IN Mindanao are donating P1.1 million from their meager calamity funds to victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in Metro Manila and Rizal.



A city in Laguna struggling to cope

Two water sources

What about rehabilitation?

Scary night

Needing help



Nowhere to go

NEWSBRIEFS

BATANGAS CITY

Lawyer shot

TACLOBAN CITY

Power project

BACOLOD CITY

Easy credit access

ROXAS CITY

Man kills wife, kid

A. Billedo; 85

Woman comes to grips with loss of NPA son in gunbattle

Final reunion

Medic

INQUIRER Visayas

Calbiga's secret waterfall, old couple

By Vicente Labro
Calbiga, Samar

PEOPLE MAPPING HERITAGE in the old town of Calbiga in Samar province have "discovered" a 20-meter waterfall just a few kilometers away from the town proper and a couple thought to be centenarians in an upland village on the forest edge.

They found it unbelievable that for several decades, residents of upstream Barangay San Mauricio, a 30-minute motorbike ride from the poblacion, were able to keep for themselves the beauty of the Omaling Falls and its natural pool.

They were also amazed at meeting the old couple still living together in Barangay Bulao.

But Teresita Calvarias, municipal tourism officer, said their findings had yet to be validated by experts.

A plan is now under way to lay a concrete pathway leading to the waterfall because the existing trail is very slippery.

Results of the heritage mapping showed that most of the mountain barangays of Calbiga have caves or sinkholes. "I think these caves are interconnected," Calvarias said.

Tidbits shared by some villagers indicate that their ancestors had been trading with people from as far as China even before the Spanish came in the 16th century.



A RECENTLY discovered cave in Calbiga, Samar

Pilot

Calbiga has been the pilot site of heritage mapping in Eastern Visayas. The National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the municipality funded the project, dubbed "Igdaeg sa Calbiga" (Let us be proud of Calbiga).

The proponent is a local group called the Calbiga Culture and the Arts.

"We applied for a ₱175,000 grant with the NCCA and the municipal government also contributed some amount," Calvarias said.

The "mappers," mostly from the academe, first attended a workshop before embarking on the project.

Among the resource persons were Prof. Eric Zerrudo, an expert on cultural heritage; Prof. Jessie Mopia, head of the Leyte-Samar Heritage Center based at the University of the Philippines Visayas-Tacloban; Nancy Paulino, a native of Calbiga and renowned dancer of Bayanihan Philippines; and some NCCA experts.

The project aims to document the cultural and natural heritage of Calbiga and to help communities preserve their natural resources and traditional cultures.

Actually, Calvarias said, the work was limited to some barangays near the poblacion, but since the mappers felt they could do the job very well, they covered all the 41 barangays of the town.



THE LULUGAYAN Falls in Calbiga, Samar



MAP showing Calbiga town

Ancient town

Calbiga, a fourth-class municipality (population 20,000), has been known as an ancient town rich with culture and a sprawl of caves and waterfalls. It is midway between the provincial capital of Catbalogan in the north and the regional center of Tacloban in the south.

Its huge and pristine caves, collectively called the Calbiga Caves system, cover 2,968 hectares. Three—Gobingob, Langun and Bitong Maharagta—of the 12 caves have unique rock formations and underground water courses and springs.

In April, a team of Italian and French speleologists discovered a pristine cave with an underground river. Other caves, such as Ito-bol and Beti, are still unexplored.

Calbiga also boasts of its Lulugayan Falls, a mini-version of the Niagara Falls.

Found 14 km from the poblacion, the falls is 50 meters wide and 30 meters high. Below is the Lulugayan Rapids, which runs several kilometers downstream, and the Caranas Rapids.

The source of the falls, Kalidongan Lake, also feeds the rapids and the 28-km Calbiga River, one of the major rivers of the island.

Aside from its natural resources, Calbiga is rich in culture—traditional songs, dances and literature. Its people are proud of their indigenous handicraft and cuisine.

Alvin Figueroa of the municipal tourism office, who led the group of mappers, said that in one village, people were still cooking rice and other food in bamboos instead of pots.

Saturnino and Licosa

He acknowledged that their precious finds were Saturnino Basada and his wife Licosa in the upland village of Bulao, about 30 kilometers from the town proper.

A son of the couple, who claimed to be in his late 60s, is taking care of them, Figueroa said. They could no longer stand and walk by themselves because of swollen knees believed to have been caused by arthritis, he said.

He explained that personalities like them were part of heritage mapping, which also included the "intangibles," such as memories, personal histories and artifacts.

Figueroa said that Saturnino, who is fondly called Apoy Tinggoy, claimed to be 132 years old and mentioned some events that had occurred in his village, its neighbors and even in the town proper.

In his younger days, Basada said he was a wild boar hunter. "He even showed us some old spearheads he had used in hunting," Figueroa said.

"The old man also recited some very old but beautiful *siday* (poems)."



THE CENTENARIAN couple, Saturnino Basada (foreground) and his wife Licosa Basada, in their house in Barangay Bulao, Calbiga, Samar.



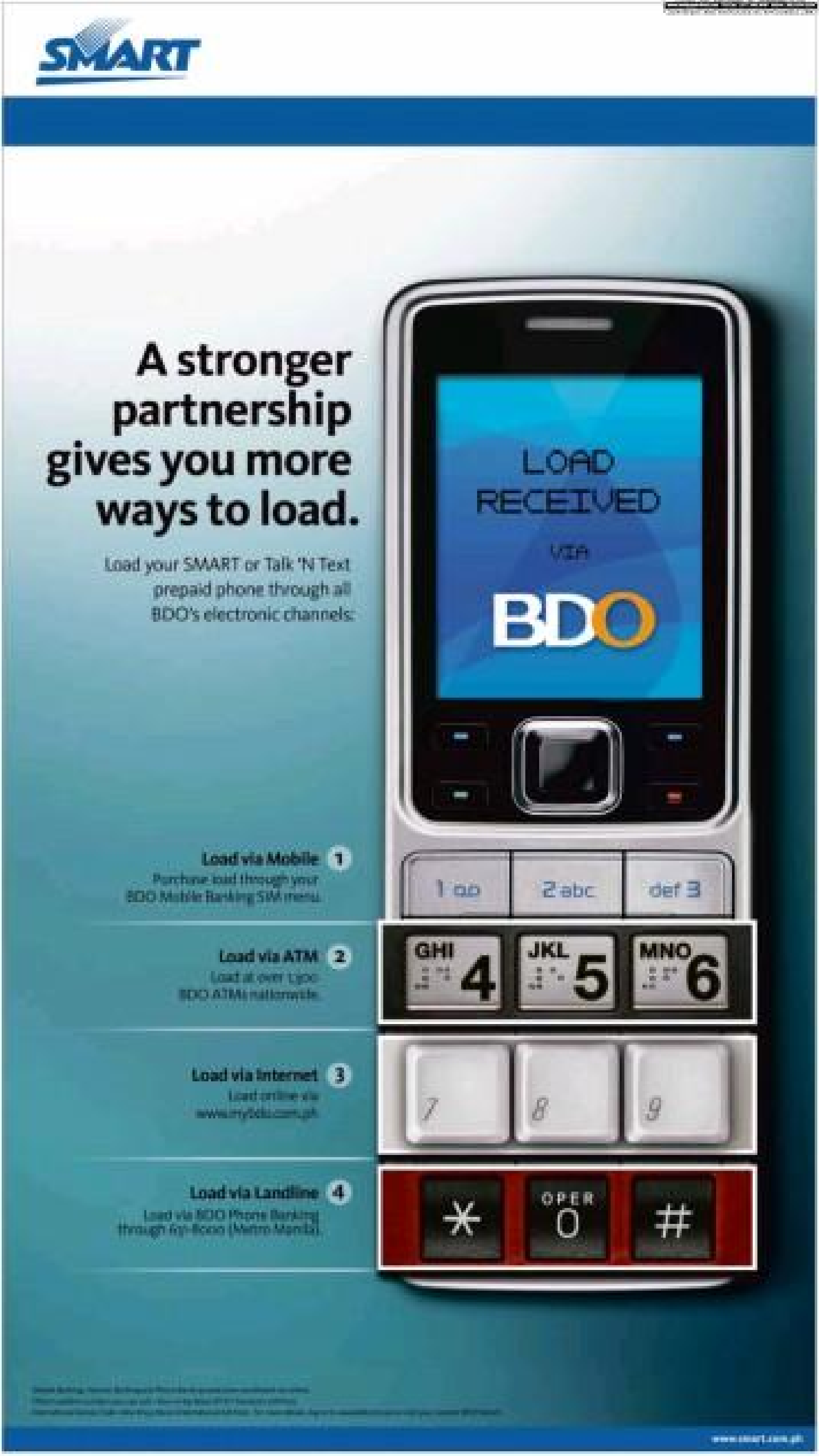
TAIWANESE DONATION

Remittance firm pitches in

Shoulder to shoulder

Tan brother asks Palace to step in

THE DAILY GOSPEL


SMART
A stronger partnership gives you more ways to load.
Load your SMART or Talk 'N Text prepaid phone through all BDO's electronic channels:
LOAD RECEIVED VIA
BDO
Load via Mobile 1
Purchase load through your BDO Mobile Banking SIM menu.
Load via ATM 2
Load at over 1,900 BDO ATMs nationwide.
Load via Internet 3
Load online via www.mybdo.com.ph
Load via Landline 4
Load via BDO Phone Banking through 631-8000 (Metro Manila).
www.smart.com.ph

A plus METRO

Editor: Rinaldo S. Villanueva [illegible]

HELPING HANDS REACH OUT TO 'ONDOY' VICTIMS

Makati donates ₱15M as aid

By Allison W. Lopez

EVEN BEFORE MALACAÑANG appealed for help, local government units have been coordinating with each other in an effort to cope with the devastation caused by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday said they extended P15 million in assistance to flood-stricken localities in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

"There is a perceived breakdown in national government response," he said. "What we are seeing are private and local government initiatives to assist the victims. This is the time for local governments to come to each other's aid."

On Thursday, Malacañang urged rich cities like Makati to share their calamity funds with other localities.

The United Opposition president called the Palace appeal "unfair" for LGUs like Makati, which has assisted localities hit by other typhoons before Ondoy.

The country's financial district, Binay stressed, has quickly reached out to its neighbor Marikina and has sent relief goods, blankets and sleeping mats to Marikina City and several towns in Bulacan province.

[illegible]

[illegible]

"The administration appears to be portraying itself as a victim of unforeseen events. But it cannot escape accountability for the breakdown in national government response. It is incumbent on government to always be in a state of preparedness," he said.

[illegible] "hard questions need to be asked and answered."

[illegible]

QC RTC employee faces graft raps

By Julie M. Aurelio

A QUEZON CITY COURT EMPLOYEE was charged with estafa and violation of the Anti-Graft Corrupt Practices Act for allegedly asking for [illegible] in exchange for the acquittal of a man accused of murder.

[illegible]

[illegible]

"There is a need for clarificatory questioning at a regular preliminary investiga-

QC RTC/A18

Dredge Laguna Lake to prevent flooding, mayor urges



PNP plays blind to rapes in Jolo

On Target



Ramon Tulfo

Manila police trace getaway car used in mall heist to AFP

Respondent in libel case filed by actress' son out on bail

QC RTC employee...

MetroBriefs

Cleaning tools wanted

Basketball tickets for free

Ready for 'Pepeng'

Cake decorating workshop

The WORLD

Autopsy: Jackson drug-free, in good health

LOS ANGELES—MICHAEL JACKSON'S AUTOPSY report was surprising as much for what it didn't contain as for what it did: The singer was in relatively good health for a man his age and no illegal drugs were detected in his system.

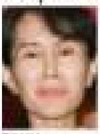


JACKSON

AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Burma court rejects Suu Kyi's bid for freedom



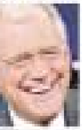
SUU KYI

AP

Samoan baby named Tsunami after lucky quake escape

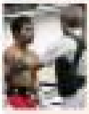
AP

TV host Letterman victim of $2-M extortion over affairs



LETTERMAN

Today's babies could live to next century, says study



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Roach tells Manny: Get serious now /A22

SPORTS



- Sharapova back in fighting form /A23



Lions maul off-form Knights; Alas ejected

Viets pull hapless RP spikers down to fight for 13th

Roach tells Manny: Get serious now

'No more games, distractions'



Warriors ran over by Al-Hussaini juggernaut

PSC accepts evacuees at Philsports

It's now a critical race against the clock

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

Sta. Lucia Golf Tour battles raging; Alta Vista bets picked

Nepomuceno, Antonio top faves in NCA stag Big Event

Aunzo foils Pagunsan, scores first pro victory



AUNZO

PAN PACIFIC OPEN

Sharapova back in fighting form



RP's Rosales five off Navistar Classic lead



ROSALES

Milo Little Olympics fetes NCR's finest

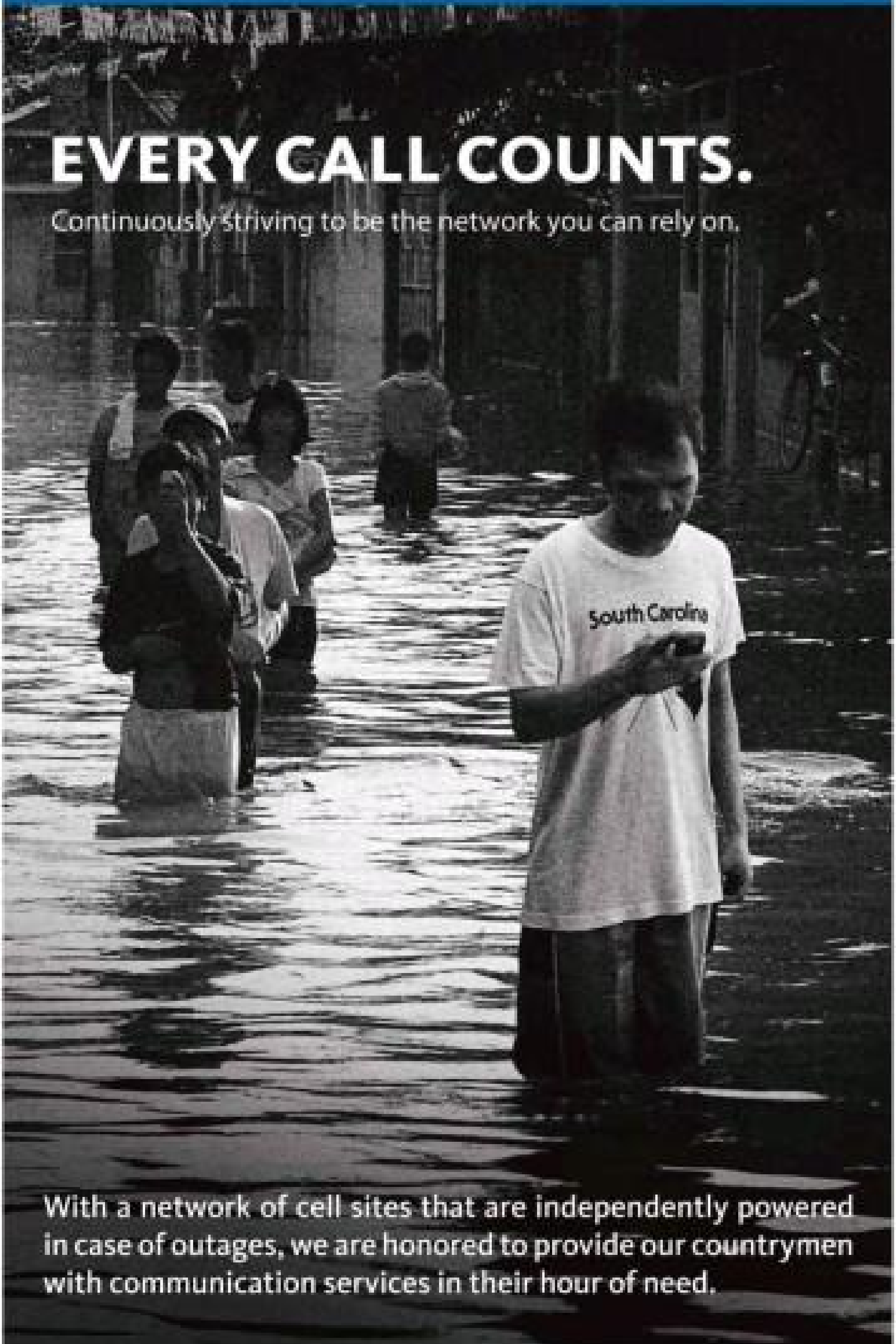


Asistio eyes Cangolf repeat

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NOTICE TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF ATOK-BIG WEDGE CO., INC.


EVERY CALL COUNTS.
Continuously striving to be the network you can rely on.
South Carolina
With a network of cell sites that are independently powered in case of outages, we are honored to provide our countrymen with communication services in their hour of need.

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Dennis B. Martinez

BUSINESS



Traders told to observe price ceilings



DTI WARNS VIOLATORS

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila (second from right) informs a vendor at the Public Market to strictly comply with the Price Act, particularly prices of basic commodities that were placed under automatic price control.

Overpricing stores face closure, criminal charges

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) YESTERday reminded traders to observe calamity-triggered price ceilings on basic goods, warning that those caught overpricing risk business closure and criminal charges.

TRADERS B2

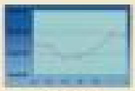
US funds buy 12% stake in Metro Pacific

Shell freezes prices of LPG, vehicle lubricants prices

SHELL B2

INDICATORS

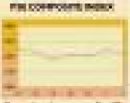
CURRENCIES



OCTOBER

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower on Wall St. fall



Ongpin group buys 66% stake in Macondray

ONGPIN B2

Gov't agrees to convert SMC stocks into preferred shares

Loses voting rights in exchange for 8% annual yield

eTelecare, US firm complete stock-swap deal

Lopez unit bullish on ₱10-B bond float

Traders told to observe price ceilings

Ongpin group buys 66% stake…

Shell freezes prices …

Disclosures

Philippine Stock Exchange

Currencies

RP urged to go easy on spending

IMF expresses concern over the country's fiscal situation

BSP expects growth in trade of derivatives

Business

British firms keen on investing in RP

Rio Tinto, Metals Exploration eye mining sector

South Sulu Sea reserves good for 7 years of oil production

Aboitiz unit takes control of Pagbilao

Stock Market Challenge Monthly Update — Inquirer Business

Portfolio Matrix and Overall Performance Standings
For the Period Ending September 30, 2009



PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Weatherization and adaptation to climate change



WEATHERIZATION means adapting buildings to the impacts of climate change like this affordable housing built on stilts in New Orleans' most devastated neighborhoods.

GREEN ARCHITREND

Amado de Jesus

THE RECENT DESTRUCTIVE flood was traced to a month's amount of rainfall pouring in just 6 hours. It was also traced to clogged drainage systems and waterways from the uplands to the heart of the city. That heavy downpour did not find its way easily to the sea which is all around us because of our critical garbage situation, bringing [illegible] in Makati City neck-deep in water.

We should now take very seriously Republic Act 9003 which empowers local governments to take firm responsibility for and enforcement of solid waste management systems.

We are all aware of the broad outline of the law, namely composting, waste segregation and recycling.

The metropolis generates daily 2,000 tons of biodegradable household waste. At the standard conversion rate of 50 percent from raw material to compost, daily production of 1,000 tons of compost could be obtained.

But our composting facilities at full capacity can process only 10 tons of compost per day. Therefore, it is very important that each household compost its own kitchen garbage. We can cover it with sawdust or dead leaves from the garden and bury them together at least a foot or more deep in the ground.

That way we keep our surroundings clean, we make the soil fertile, and we save the costly garbage truck from carrying more by-product refuse.

Promotional campaigns at the barangay level to make solid waste management a primary community activity could be very helpful. The garbage we throw is the garbage we will get as we just learned very painfully.

Our daily waste generation is 6,700 tons. If we form multipurpose environmental cooperatives at the community level to take care of waste segregation and recycling, we can move faster toward zero waste and garbage in cause.

Preventing water absorption

There are also many hard concrete surfaces on the ground including building developments that cover or blanket green spaces in the city preventing water absorption into the ground.

It is advisable for houses to be built at least 20 meters away from waterways. It is also very helpful to landfill the housed lot, perhaps one meter high before building a house on it if there is a possibility of flooding.

As the heart of weatherization and adaptation to climate change is energy efficiency and energy conservation. The former is doing more with less and the latter implies making do with less. We have dedicated this column many times to energy efficiency. First of all, the building industry is responsible for half of the use of the world's resources and also half of carbon emissions.

The bottom line is the efficient use of energy is reducing carbon emissions which cause global warming that leads to climate change.

Let us vote leaders who sincerely have at heart mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. This is more important than population control which is now the darling of politicians given the huge amount of foreign funds pouring in if we pass the RH bill. First they mistook population concentration in big cities for overpopulation, and when we saw through that, they now uphold women's rights and the right to contraception.

Maternal mortality is caused by lack of trained attendance at birth, lack of clean water and lack of sanitation and other real essential medicine. We cannot allow slogans that pit the life of the mother with the life of the child, including the unborn.

Abortion, which to all concerns was the next step after legalized use of artificial contraceptives, is never necessary to save the life of the mother. Let us safeguard the provision on life in our country's constitution.

Next: Weatherization strategies.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail arcmadejesus@gmail.com.





SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor: Cecile D. Manganaye

Health issues we face after the flood

By Charles E. Buban

THE FLOODING brought about by typhoon Ondoy last Saturday forced some 400,000 Filipinos to cram themselves into tiny evacuation centers where sanitation facilities are inadequate, and water supplies are more likely tainted.

[illegible]

Prime threat

[illegible]



FLOOD victims are also warned against various diseases like cholera and leptospirosis that are expected to rise due to unsanitary surroundings.

[illegible]

The best prevention

[illegible]

Serious nerve inflammation

[illegible]

Rejoinder on releasing negative emotions after a tragedy

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.



LAST WEEK—THE DAY OF THE UNFORGETTABLE deluge in Metro Manila— [illegible]

A different scenario

[illegible]

Simple releasing exercise

[illegible]

Positive emotions

[illegible]

After the rain

DISCOVER

Maxine Santos Bolton



AS NEWS REPORTS continue to provide updates on the aftermath of Ondoy [illegible]

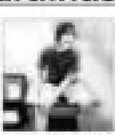
Grades had suffered

[illegible]

Enhancing weather data

[illegible]

Juvenile arthritis: Is your child at risk?



[illegible]

Living near . . .

From page B1

Increase in inquiries

Retirees considered

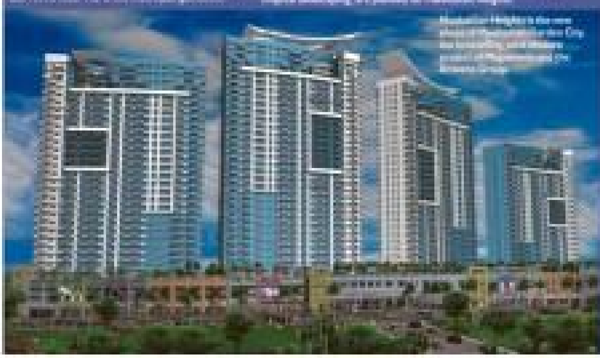




Posh amenities abound at Manhattan Heights









PROPERTY



Living near your workplace



By Charles E. Buban

THANKS TO THE PRESENCE OF NUMEROUS multinational companies and industrial parks, the city of Santa Rosa in Laguna has been dubbed "The Investment Capital of South Luzon."



Super LifeStyle
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation
Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan

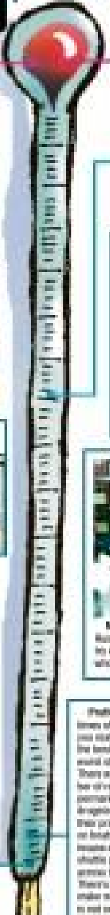


SUPER THERMOMETER

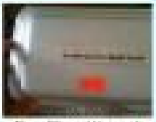
'Ondoy': The hot, the cold and the annoying

Real life heroes, make-believe dams, hackers and fake Twitter accounts

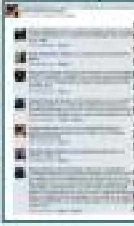


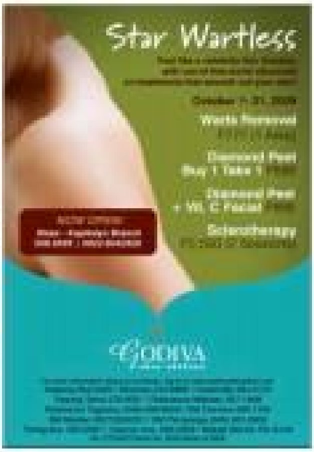


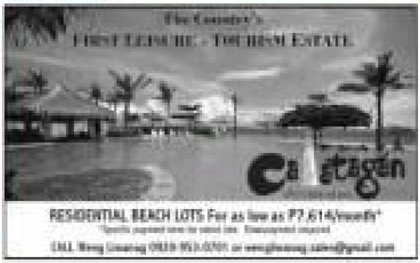















SM
PAMPANGA • CLARK
The heart and soul of
Where everything happens.
A SUMPTUOUS FEAST AWAITS YOU AT THE MALL
Let the taste tickle your fancy and all the wonderful colors dance across your eyes. As the aroma of yummy goodness envelope you with thoughts of promised delight, let the sound of laughter bring you that feeling of comfort. Fill all your senses with the pleasures of a great meal, with the best company in the world—your friends and family. And as this wonderment of a get-together fills your hearts, it will definitely make your soul sing out in joy.
daytime family feasts
Family bonding is a much more important activity than any other. Working all day to support your loved ones will only be truly rewarding with every moment you spend with them. And in times like this, every effort goes a long way. Visit the mall and make a day out of it with the kids. Bring grandma and grandpa along and make it a true fun-filled reunion. Enjoy dish upon dish of the best meals for families big and small and your celebration will truly be memorable.
chicken and more...
Everything tastes like chicken! Because it is! And because most kids love it, let them enjoy a healthy treat served roasted or barbecued and watch them devour the goodness.
Reyes Barbecue
satisfy the heart...
mid-day snacks
Take a break in the middle of your shopping and recharge with fulfilling snacks that burst with amazing flavors. Be it the indulgent flavor of Italian dishes from pizza to pasta, the all-American goodness of a burger and the invigorating effect of brewed coffee, there's a snack here for everybody.
Babalan
YELLOW CAB

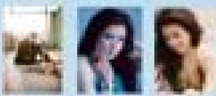


f Pampanga.



MALL EVENTS:

SM CITY CLARK

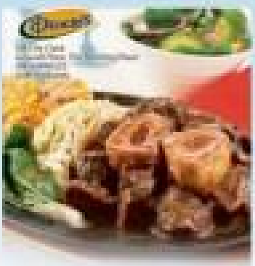


SM CITY PAMPANGA



soul food

Full-flavored food that satisfy the soul and keep the conversations longer, and much more meaningful. Meat and vegetables, as well as dishes drenched in sauce are as filling as they are energizing. Keep lunch leisurely and let the world revolve around you as you sit back and enjoy.



sbarro





sweet life

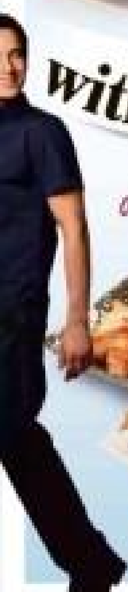
Fulfill your craving for sweets with the goodness of coffee, cakes and pastries. Let the heady sweetness and the exhilarating flavors of desserts put an exclamation point to a wonderful meal. There's nothing like easing back out into the day after a wonderful meal-ender.





UCC

with food for the soul



go oriental

Take pleasure in different flavors and try out the delightful taste of Japanese dishes. While already a staple among many, those new to the taste will discover a new world of goodness that explodes with every bite.







happy hour

For that long-awaited get-together with colleagues and friends you haven't seen for some time, the great happy hour is the perfect time for revelry filled with drinks and the customary pulutan—dishes that enhance the banter and make the night seem twice as long. Whether the gathering is indoors or done al fresco, these favorites definitely give the party an added kick.





Your Internet guide to helping 'Ondoy' victims

Team Internet: Responding to specific needs of Help Centers for 'Ondoy' victims



By [illegible]

THE FILIPINO BAYANIHAN spirit is shining more brightly than ever and the regular Internet users, especially members of the social networking sites Twitter and Facebook, are combining efforts to help typhoon victims. This is a fantastic initiative by different individuals who would like to assist donations/relief goods centers. If you are a member of these sites and would like to reach out to the victims, keep this guide handy the next time you log on:

Jet Skis/rubber boats/kayaks

Owners of Jet Skis and speedboats, please tweet @[illegible] if you would like to be listed as rescue contacts. NGOs delivering relief goods also need your help when delivering goods to still heavily flooded areas.

Trucks

Owners of trucks, tweet @[illegible] if you like to offer your trucks to transport relief goods. Organizations in need of trucks may also tweet him or add him on Facebook (Carlos Celdran) to get his mobile number for faster communication. He's been doing an amazing job coordinating trucks and relief centers since Wednesday when mobile numbers of available trucks started getting posted and reposted with no one coordinating them with the appropriate relief centers.

Volunteers

Relief Centers coordinators, tweet @[illegible] if you're understaffed or overstaffed to help spread the volunteers in the right direction at any given time. Volunteers who are just about to leave their homes/offices may also tweet for information on understaffed centers.

Cars

If you need cars to transport relief goods, the friends of Twitter user Iggy Cruz (@[illegible]) have teamed up to address delivery issues. You may also tweet @[illegible] to forward your call for a car or if you would like to offer your car to help transport relief goods here.

Iggy [illegible] allows volunteers to transport the relief goods to their warehouse.

Important URLs (More information)

For a map of donations drop-off points, visit http://twitpic.com/[illegible].

A comprehensive Google document is being maintained and updated by several volunteers to disseminate information on ways to help the victims of Ondoy. It's available on this shortcut link: http://bit.ly/[illegible]. (Just click on the name of the city/municipality nearest you. Click "Nationwide" for more ways to help.)

If you like to make a donation to Red Cross online, do so at this shortcut link: http://bit.ly/[illegible]

You may also donate to Red Cross via text/SMS: text RED<space>AMOUNT to 2899 (Globe) or 4483 (Smart).

Share your blessings in any way you can. You can help.

The author's twitter name is @[illegible]. You may e-mail her at: [illegible]@gmail.com

Online auction for a cause

Running low on funds but still aching to give? Go to this Multiply page

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HELP THE victims of "Ondoy"—you can go to relief centers and help repack, you can relay important message on your Facebook and Twitter, you can raid your closet for clothes and shoes, you can donate food, toiletries, medicines and drinking water.

But when your funds have run low and you're still aching to give—what can you do?

Put up stuff for auction.

This was the brilliant idea of interior designer Anna Leah Hernandez. Still wanting to give after leaving her closet half empty, she decided she can get relief goods from strangers by setting up a Multiply account and putting pre-loved stuff up for auction.

The first things she posted? Barely used sneakers.

And they're not just ordinary sneakers. So far she's posted five pairs of Nike sneakers, some of which are limited edition. She wants medicines and water in exchange for them—3 boxes of Biogesic for the high cut ones, one for the low-cut pairs.

Others have already followed suit, posting bags, toy cameras and other items.

She wants other people to do the same. "Feel free to post items you want to trade for donations. State what you want in exchange for your goodies. No cash, please," she wrote.

Visit http://[illegible].multiply.com.

Super LIFESTYLE

Super heroes

Their weapons of choice? Paddleboards, Jet Skis and yes, arroz caldo

By Pam Pastor

THERE WAS A CRY FOR HELP AND they answered. There was a need and they responded. They braved murky waters, donated their own resources and kept working despite exhaustion. And they were nothing in return—not publicity, not recognition. Super pays tribute to these ... heroes. We can all learn a thing or two from them.





Superheroes on paddleboards

Freddy Gonzalez was in Singapore to watch the F1 races when "Ondoy" struck. "When I got back, I heard that my sister-in-law got an e-mail about people stuck in areas where the water was still chest high and couldn't get relief goods."

Freddy and his wife Anna decided to do something about it. The couple, who are the country's Havaianas distributors, weren't content with just making flip-flop donations—although they did that. They wanted to get more involved.

Freddy, who operates Aloha Boardsports, recruited surfers and boardsports enthusiasts who were willing to go out into the murky waters to go to places that couldn't be reached by boats.

Their goal was not to rescue but to bring relief. "There are people who don't want to be rescued, who are afraid of losing their possessions, who need food, blankets, clothes," said Freddy.

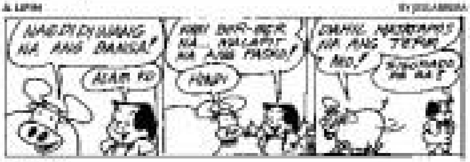
The next morning, they

SUPERHEROES D4

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



A. LIPIN



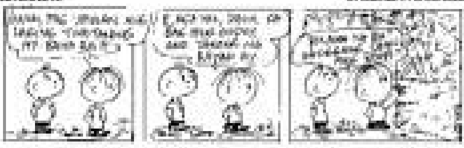
PUGAD BABOY — BY P.M. JUNIOR



DICK TRACY



LOVESHOTS



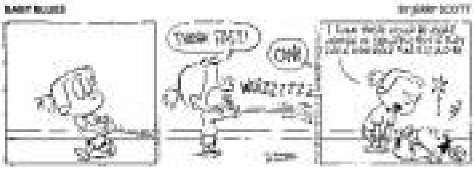
JAMES BOND



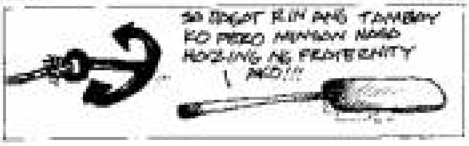
DIVINE COMEDY



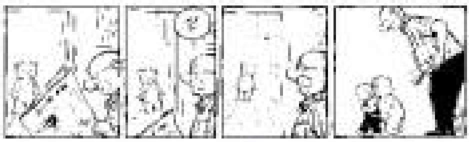
BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



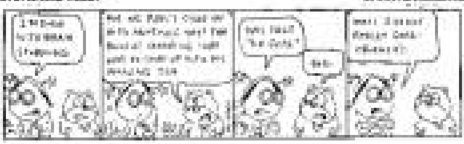
TULDOK



BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON



ATOMO AND WENDY

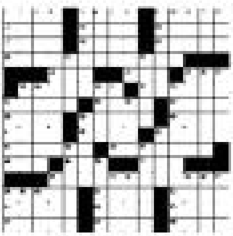


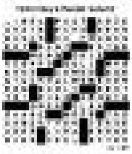
BIKO MACHINE



HOROSCOPE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

			6					7
				5			6	
		7	3	1		9		
1		2						
	9	3				2	1	
						3		4
		1		2	8	4		
	6			7				
3					4			

Diff. Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	1	9	7	8	5	6	4
8	4	7	6	5	1	3	9	2
6	5	9	3	2	4	7	8	1
5	1	8	2	4	3	6	7	9
4	3	2	7	6	9	1	5	8
7	9	6	1	8	5	2	4	3
1	7	5	4	9	2	8	3	6
2	6	4	8	3	7	9	1	5
9	8	3	5	1	6	4	2	7



VOLUNTEERS and fans alike enjoying the music

Rock music to the rescue





YOUNG bands chip in and play for a good cause.

By Angela V Ignacio
2BU Correspondent

CAN YOU SAY "BAND aid"?

In less than three days, Megamics in Pasig was transformed from a bustling relief center to a rumbling rock venue, where countless musicians lent their talents to a giant fundraising gig on Oct. 1. Entitled "Raise The Roof: A benefit concert for Typhoon "Ondoy" victims," the event was presented by MYX and NU107, featuring both upcoming bands and local favorites such as Urbandub, Sponge Cola, Chicosci, Halo, Imago, Wavesurfers, Taken By Cars, and Boyfriend, to name a few.

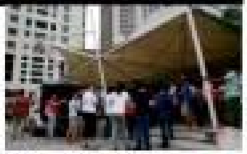


"The concert was the brainchild of Megamics volunteers who pitched the idea to friends in the media and music industry. "I called up a few bands, and they said yes right away," said MUSIT DJ Ron Marvilla, who also played host to the event. "They told their other musician friends, and we also called up our friends from the media and production... and everything just fell into place."

Thanks to the power of online networking and word-of-mouth, news of the gig spread like wildfire, attracting fans and sponsors alike. The concert, which started early in the afternoon, had a great crowd turnout despite the early threat of rain signalling the arrival of Super-typhoon "Pepeng." It also boasted of a lineup that consisted of a whopping 45 bands, if we're not mistaken. This is no small feat, considering it's only been days since the typhoon ravaged the country. All proceeds from the concert will go to the Philippine Red Cross, said Marvilla.

'Bayanihan'

Because of the devastation brought about by the typhoon, many bands readily heeded the call even though they were fixed victims themselves. "All of us were affected by the typhoon in some way... It's for a good cause and we want to do whatever we can," said Chicosci guitarist Mong Alcaraz, whose own house in Quezon City was flooded. Typecast's Steve Badiola and The Resurrection shared the same sentiments. "Lahat kami binaha... pero kahit ganun, tumutulong pa rin kami," added Badiola.



VOLUNTEERS helping out before the concert

Meanwhile, those who were lucky enough to escape from Ondoy's wrath took the concert as an opportunity to reach out to others like them. "A lot of typhoon victims are still out there needing help... We just want to do our part, to bring people together," said Halo frontman Champ Lui-Pio. "It's the perfect time to exhibit bayanihan."

Megamics is still accepting relief goods, volunteers and sponsors. For those interested in helping out, just drop by the venue and look for volunteer heads Dom Hernandez or Meg Perales.

E-mail the author at avignacio@gmail.com.

Fashion designers and musicians to hold fundraiser for Red Cross

FASHION DESIGNERS, MUSICIANS, artists and celebrity organizers will be holding a fundraising event for the Philippine National Red Cross on Oct. 7, from 3 p.m. to 12 midnight at the NBC Tent.

The event, dubbed the "Life Affairs Project," will feature a slew of musical performers such as Halo, Sugarfree, Julianne, Wavesurfers, 6Cyclemind, DRT, Johnoy Alegre, Imago, Session Road, Dj Lifeel-O, Kjwan, Shoe Jean Rankin, Cameroonilla, and celebrities from the GMA Artist Center, among others.

Gowns and dresses from designers Rajo Laurel, Randy Ortiz, Ethel Ruiz, and Patrice Ramos-Diaz will also be put up for auction. There will also be booths for pledges.

Simply drop by at the NBC Tent on Oct. 7 to support the Life Affairs Project. Every person makes a difference.

Ping's mighty arroz caldo

The actor has put up a soup kitchen to feed flood victims. His is a delicious act of kindness



PING MEDINA and his hungry soup kitchen

Super heroes



FREDDY Gonzales in action



Superheroes on paddleboards



Surprised heroes

Banjo Bautista was surprised when people started calling him and asking to be rescued. But he and his friends went out and rescued them anyway



They were forbidden by authorities, but the situation was desperate—people must be saved at all costs

Jet skiers to the rescue



Super

'We were a nation of citizen journalists that night'

Gang Badoy spent 16 hours on air every day, helping people find missing loved ones, even giving a man instructions on how to deliver his wife's baby





RADIO STAR. Gang Badoy took over a radio station and offered people comfort and information.

On air

Medical emergencies

Relief

Thoughts from a half-submerged house



THE VIEW from inside

Abandoned houses

Rescue

Aftermath

Maximum waters, maximum shock

She was supposed to take part in the Maximum Groovity dance contest. But she experienced something less groovy

2bU LIFESTYLE

Do's and don't's for volunteers

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Club 36 opens its door to the public

Edsa Shangri-La Manila's Paparazzi takes you to Tuscany

Hotel Kimberly's Cafe at K offers house specialties

Waterfront launches central reservations center

Gastronomic feast at the Oyster Restaurant

Dusit Thani Manila celebrates Restaurant Week

Microtel

Do's and don't's for volunteers

By Bianca Consunji

YOU ARE DEVASTATED by what happened, and you want to help. While helping hands are always welcome especially in times of calamity, you might make things harder for the organizing group or even the victims, if you go about it the wrong way.



Do:

MOBILIZE YOUR FRIENDS. Send messages on Twitter and Facebook, text people—reach out to your network. You'll never know who might want to help.

BRING READY-TO-EAT FOOD. Forget canned goods and instant noodles; try bringing packed meals, sandwiches, bottled water, juice boxes, candy—anything that's easy to distribute and eat, and hopefully, that won't spoil easily.

WEAR COMFORTABLE CLOTHES. A white polo and crisp jeans may look good, but skip light-colored clothes—the last thing you'll want to worry about is your outfit. Bring an extra shirt if you're a sweaty person.

BRING A FIRST-AID KIT. Volunteers tend to suffer injuries such as small wounds and bruises, so have a first-aid kit so you won't have to bug the organizing group for medicine. Make sure to bring extra food and water for yourself.



WEAR A SMILE. No matter how tired you are, or how hard the volunteer work gets, keep in mind that others have it worse. A smile makes people feel better—and if you're happy about what you're doing, it should come automatically.

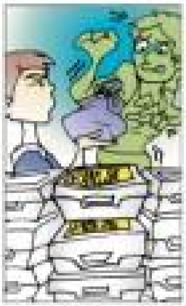
Don't:

VOLUNTEER JUST BECAUSE IT'S COOL. Help out because you sincerely want to, not because you want to look good before your crush. Think of others, and not the benefits the extra brownie points will bring you.

MAKE YOUR "YAYA" AND BODY GUARDS DO ALL THE WORK. A lot of high-profile politicians, celebrities, and children of politicians and celebrities have been seen at relief drives. While a lot of them do have good intentions, some have been spotted making their helpers do a good part of the work. (Also, they could be making other volunteers uncomfortable, too.)

BE SQUEAMISH. A friend told me about a high school girl who incessantly cleaned her hands with alcohol after someone helped her up on a truck—in front of the person who helped her. It's insulting to keep bringing out your hbay 'lik every time you come in contact with someone. If you're more worried about dirtying your hands, stay at home.

DONATE STALE GOODS AND RAGGED CLOTHES. The flood victims have already lost a lot; don't make them lose their dignity by foisting old goods on them. Before donating anything, ask yourself: Is this something I would wear or eat myself? If not, don't give it.



PLASTER YOUR NAME ON EVERYTHING. Labeling everything with your name is just crass—it means there are strings attached to your donation. Keep your donations anonymous.

Email the author at bconsunji@dailytribune.com

Tours, Leisure & Chow

'All Hallow's Eve Shiver' at Torre Venezia

[illegible]

Celebrating the Starbucks heritage

[illegible]

More, bigger 'waves' at 8 Waves Waterpark

[illegible]

One 'suite' treat at One Tagaytay Place



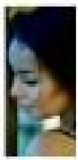
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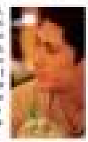
How compassionate is your school?

What is your 'Ondoy' story?

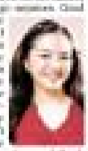


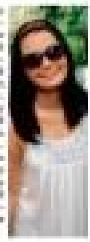












Young Entrepreneur Garners Accolades from Go Negosyo and BPI Family Savings Bank



Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

SATURDAY *Special*



Milestone recordings go from shrill to spectacular

By Rito P. Asilo

MADONNA'S LATest album, "Celebration," isn't just a hefty and craftily engineered compilation of the Material Girl's top hits—it also teaches an instructive lesson in career longevity and musical reinvention.

The two-disc set is a must-have collectible for Madonna fanatics who want to experience the frills and cutesy sound of her remastered dance classics and ballads, sans the hissing, skipping and uneven fading common in vinyl and cassette tapes, which were the formats of choice when the consummate pop goddess started conquering the airwaves in the '80s with such unforgettable disco hits as "Burning Up," "Lucky Star," "Holiday" and "Like A Virgin."

The 36-track compilation vividly chronicles how Madonna has evolved through the years without compromising her hit-churning and hip-swaying ability in the dance-pop genre. Notice how her music and sound have undergone distinctive makeovers.

From her cotton candy-coated dance-floor beginnings, she upped the dramatic ante by recording the racy "Erotica," the playful "Vogue," the provocative "Like A Prayer" and the dance-with-a-message ditty, "Papa Don't Preach."

More intriguing

Madonna's third artistic phase was even more intriguing: This time, she displayed greater maturity and introspection, and critics started embracing her music when she experimented with eastern, world-music and New Age melodies ("Frozen" and "Ray of Light").

Thereafter, she fostered technology-assisted embellishments to her unique, new sound as she boldly added electronica ("Hung Up," "Music") and hip-hop ("4 Minutes," her duet with Justin Timberlake) to her playlist to cater to the young dance aficionados of the new decade. But, she managed to keep her loyal followers by issuing more class-themed songs ("Another Day," "Beautiful Stranger") and lovely ballads with infectious melodic hooks and universal appeal ("Live To Tell," "Take A Bow").

There are only two new songs in the album—the title track, "Celebration," and "Revolver," her collaboration with Lil Wayne—each showcasing the dance diva's ability as a musical shape-shifter. In the latter, you'll hardly recognize Madonna's tech-polished vocals, while she delivers the classic '80s sound in the former to pay tribute to the catchy grooves that catapulted her to international stardom.

Choice of songs

Young singer Rhap Salazar's self-titled album is likewise ... "Rhap

MILESTONE/F5



MADONNA: Lesson in longevity and musical reinvention.



SALAZAR: Pays tribute to Michael Jackson.

'Celebrity' factor in disaster coverage scored

By Nestor U. Torre

THE RECENT "ONDOY" DISASTER has severely affected millions of Filipinos, many of whom are still reeling from its tragic aftermath. Conversely, the shared trauma has brought out the best in many people, some of whom have been hailed as heroes due to their courageous acts of rescue and self-abnegation.

On the other hand, some sour notes have been struck by the less than enlightened utterances of some celebrities, whose self-centered behavior has rubbed quite a number of flood victims the wrong way.

Observation

Their first general observation is that TV-radio coverage of the disaster has been slanted to highlight the celebrity factor to an excessive degree.

This is a rather complicated issue: On one hand, focusing on celebrity victims serves to "demonstrate" the suffering. And all those shots of stars and starlets helping out can inspire viewers to be similarly generous and helpful—and that's a very good thing.

Excessive focus

However, whether intentionally or not, the excessive focus on celebrities has also subliminally created a "we" and "them" dichotomy: If you're a celebrity victim, some of your radio-TV friends will urgently ask for you to be rescued ahead of "unknown" victims. In addition, right after you're rescued, you are interviewed in detail, break down on cam, etc.

In the meantime, the "unknowns" have to wait for their turn to be saved—with much less solid and emotional media attention, naturally.

Other turn-offs include stars who visit flood victims to distribute relief goods—and subliminally remind them that they're running for public office next

CELEBRITY/F5

Rita Hayworth was no flash in the pan

Attention

Serious roles





'FAME.' Dazzling dance sequences.

'Fame' entertains in a chaste way

Reality TV

Closing credits

Water that invigorates

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and Y. Bismark

Flood of love

'Celebrity' factor in disaster coverage scored

Behavior

Spotlight Artists . . .

From page F4

'Gossip Girl'

'True Champions'

Special edition





Patricio

Pinoy treats for the French palate

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza



Food show

Clients

Aroma

Exceptional TV-film mentors remembered

Rare opportunity

Baptism of fire

Fundraising show







ESTRADA. Shared his rare experience as star-producer.



Milestone . . .

From page F1

Timeless tunes

Spotlight Artists Center holds acting workshop



LAUCHENGCO. Topbills popular Sondheim musical.



BAUTISTA. Sings tunes from his "Romance Revisited" album.

MONTAGE

Christian Bautista

Movies on TV

Model and Fashion Congress

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Exceptional TV-film mentors remembered /3

SATURDAY Special

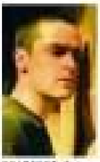
Festival showcases broad range of Korean cinema



"THE SHOW MUST GO ON."

Better chance

Devoted family man



BRADFORD.



CALZADO (WITH DURAND, RIGHT).

SNEAK PREVIEW

Impressive Hollywood bows for Laranas, Calzado

Abusive relationship

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MOVIEWORLD

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METRO EAST

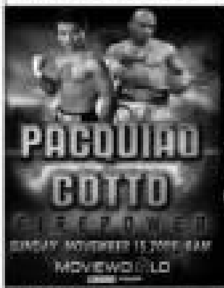
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NOVALICHES

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PIONEER

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4 THE UGLY TRUTH



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STA. ROSA

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TACLOBAN

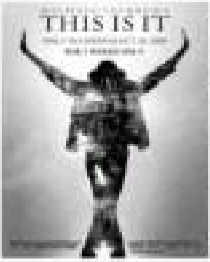
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MOVIEWORLD



Fight to the finish

By Nestor U. Torre

Peace and order

Climactic sequence

Jullie dishes on mistresses and a charmed life

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero



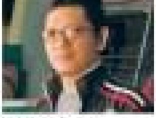
DAZA (WITH FRANK EVARISTO AND BEN SANTOS): Enjoys the best of both worlds.

Confrontation

'Independencia' wins two major awards...

Artists share their Ondoy experiences

By Pias Arevalo





Heartbreaking

Stranded

Blunt portrays a vibrant monarch in biopic



BLUNT: Portrays Queen Victoria.

Abrupt end

Domineering mother

Character

Barbra Streisand gets nostalgic



STREISAND: Releases latest album, "Love Is The Answer"

[illegible]

Adventure

[illegible]

Satisfaction

[illegible]

'Trauma' stands out among new TV shows



'TRAUMA': Survivors amid the ruins.

[illegible]

Outsiders

[illegible]

Reuters

Impressive Hollywood bows...

From page G1

[illegible]

Domestic abuse

[illegible]

'Independencia' wins two major awards in Bangkok



ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES —NEWS of Raya Martin's "Independencia" winning the Grand Prize in the Southeast Asia Competition and the Netpac (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) at the just concluded seventh Bangkok International Film Festival provides a much-needed boost after the terrible devastation wrought by Ondoy.

Arleen Cuevas, who produced "Independencia," accepted the awards during the closing ceremonies held last Wednesday at the Chatrium Suites Bangkok. Raya is attending the New York Film Festival, where his American Dure... [illegible] will also be screened.

Interestingly, this first Filipino film to compete in the Un Certain Regard section in the Cannes Film Festival shows a violent storm that has a profound impact on a family played by Sid Lucero, Alessandra de Rossi and Mika Aguilos.

Arleen flew to Bangkok from Vladivostok, where "Independencia" competed in the seventh Pacific Meridian International Film Festival. She posted in her Facebook page that the very first question she was asked during the Q&A with the audience after the film's screening was, "Why is there is so much rain in the Philippines (as shown in the movie)?" This was before Ondoy struck, so Arleen's post drew unusual comments, including one from this columnist.

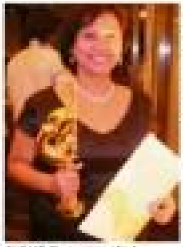

MENDOZA. Strong presence of Pinoy indies in festival circuit.

Another Philippine entry, [illegible] Sanchez's "[illegible]," along with Malaysia's "Call If You Need Me," won the Special Mention Prize in the Southeast Asia Competition of the Thai film festival, which hopes to champion films from the region. The Special Jury Prize went to Thailand's "Nymph."

Rock icon

Berlin-based journalist and film critic, Vincenzo Bugno, Singaporean filmmaker Royston Tan, and Thai indie rock icon and poet, [illegible], made up the jury for the Southeast Asia Competition.

As we write this, Arleen is flying back to the Philippines. She promised to e-mail us about "Independencia's" triumph once she's home.


CUEVAS. The acclaimed film's producer.

Brillante "Dante" Mendoza served as a juror in the main competition along with Chinese filmmaker Li Yang and Thai singer and movie director, Ekachai Uekrongtham. Dante and his two colleagues gave the top prize to an entry from Belgium, Peter Brosens and Jessica Hope Woodworth's "Altiplano," which was described by Screen Daily as "a hyper-stylized environmental drama set in a Peruvian village."

The other winners in the main competition were China's "The Search," which clinched the Special Jury Prize and Canada's "I Killed My Mother," which bagged the Special Mention honors.

Incidentally, we've been able to watch some of the Cannes entries by filmmakers whom Dante edged out for the Best Director award. These include Jane Campion's "Bright Star" and Michael Haneke's "The White Ribbon," which won the Palme d'Or. These are excellently crafted films, so we can't wait to see "Kinatay," the film that Dante won for and made him the first Filipino to win the Cannes' coveted Best Director plum.

The filmmaker, who is reported to have a large following in Thailand, just got back in the Philippines. "Medyo pagod pa ako," he wrote via e-mail. "Nag-alala ako while I was in Bangkok, kasi a lot of people were texting me, asking if we were OK." We asked Dante to share his thoughts on being in the jury and he obliged.

"It's not easy judging other filmmakers' work, because you can't help judging them from your own point of view. [illegible] Third World countries like ours. I'm saying this because the festival had good choices. But, I'm happy because most of my choices won, like 'The Search' and 'I Killed My Mother.'

Long discussion

"We had a long discussion over the Grand Prize winner, 'Altiplano,' because of the use of religion in the film. Coming from a Catholic country, I pointed out some of its flaws, which my fellow jurors, Li Yang and Ekachai Uekrongtham, who are both Buddhists, didn't quite understand... like the use of images, etc. But in the end, we agreed to give the prize to 'Altiplano,' which was also screened in the Critics Week in Cannes.

"I'm very happy but not surprised

INDEPENDENCIA/A2


GLEE. "Welcome respite from the dark and violent series that dominate the small screen."

'Glee' shines through the doom and gloom

By Nestor U. Torre

IN THE PAST, LOCAL TELEVIEWERS had to wait months, if not years, to finally get to watch new US TV shows. Happily, that long waiting period has been radically abridged of late, with some new shows reaching viewers here just weeks after making their debut on US television.

For instance, "Glee" is now showing on the ETC channel, regaling local viewers with its beguilingly melodic tale about a high school glee club. The show has been praised for providing viewers with a welcome respite from the dark and violent series that dominate the small screen this season.

"Glee" is set in a small town in Ohio and is inspiring because it shows how a few high school students and a teacher are able to give vent to their love for music, despite getting teased by most everyone in their school.

Private lives

The "underdog" plotting keeps the series eventful and thematically lively. More conflicts are stirred by going into the glee club members' private lives, which are full of opposition and struggle.

This sort of problem-centered plotting can get to be annoying, but "Glee" avoids that pitfall by making its protagonists plucky rather than complaining and morose.

Best of all, the new series celebrates the beauty and healing power of music, and encourages viewers to similarly give singing a special place in their hearts and lives.

It's easy to empathize with the show's [illegible] mood, because the young actor-singers in the glee club are all outstanding and even photogenic personalities. Lea Michele plays Rachel Berry, Amber Riley is Mercedes Jones, a fashion-conscious diva, Chris Colfer is Kurt Hummel, a teenage boy [illegible]

GLEE/A4